

of the Medicaid program are being undermined by the inappropriate use of waiver authority by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Administration's Medicaid waiver initiative is an attempt to do behind closed doors what it has been able to do openly in Congress, which is to reduce protections in healthcare for some of our most vulnerable citizens. In less than four years the Bush Administration has eroded the health care safety net for millions of Americans, at a time when the faltering economy has produced record high unemployment and increased the number of Americans who are uninsured for health care.

The "Medicaid and CHIP Safety Net Preservation Act" will ensure transparency and public input in the process for exercising the waiver authority under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. It also adds protections to ensure that waivers do not erode the core objectives of the Medicaid program and Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) previously enacted by Congress.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to assure that some of our most vulnerable citizens will receive higher, not lower, quality health insurance coverage under Medicaid.

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN RECYCLING PROJECTS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congressman DREIER's Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative, H.R. 2991, which will specifically benefit the cities of Ontario and Fontana in my district.

I am an original co-sponsor of the bill and I look forward to seeing its benefits in the Inland Empire in California.

I consider it top priority to improve water quality and increase water quantity in my community. This community has had to juggle: wildfires, huge population growth, drought, and water contamination with perchlorate and other chemicals. For all of these reasons, water recycling and new technology for treatment are critical to this area.

We need to increase and improve the quality of our water supply, and this legislation before us today is a giant step in that direction.

I would like to commend my neighbor, Congressman DREIER, for his leadership in improving water availability in Southern California, as well as in the fight to clean up perchlorate-contaminated groundwater.

I also commend the bipartisan California delegation for bringing forward important legislation that will bring crucial water benefits to our State.

I urge my colleagues to support this initiative that will help "drought-proof" a region that desperately needs it.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOYCE CARDELLA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman whose 42 years of public service to the City of Los Angeles serves as an example to us all. On behalf of my esteemed colleagues, I would like to acknowledge this remarkable woman whose reputation for hard work, humility, and effectiveness is well deserved.

Ms. Cardella began her career in 1960 as a senior clerk stenographer for the Los Angeles City Health Department. In 1963, she transferred to the office of 13th District Councilman James Harvey Brown. Four years later, she joined the office of Fowler D. Jones, the first Chief Legislative Analyst for the Los Angeles City Council. Over the next 34 years, Ms. Cardella faithfully served as the Executive Assistant to each succeeding Chief Legislative Analyst.

She has had the opportunity to work with many of the city's leaders, including 4 mayors, 8 City Council presidents, 67 city council members, 4 city administrative officers, and all 7 chief legislative analysts. Ms. Cardella even worked for the city when my father, former Congressman Edward Roybal, started his career in elected office as a Los Angeles City Council Member.

As part of the team of workers that have led Los Angeles, Ms. Cardella played a role in responding to Los Angeles's triumphs and tragedies—working to prepare the city for the 1984 Olympic Games and to rebuild our city after three major earthquakes, two episodes of civil disturbance, and the Baldwin Hills Flood.

Ms. Cardella has meant many things to many people. To her neighborhood, she is a graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School. To others, she is an alumnus of Glendale College, where she received an associate of arts degree. To her family, she is a loved and respected mother and grandmother. To the city that she proudly served, she is the standard to which few can lay claim, but toward which all employees strive. All who know and have worked with Ms. Cardella, know that her loyalty to her office was second only to her loyalty to the citizens of Los Angeles themselves.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my thanks, and that of a grateful city, to Joyce Cardella for 42 years of dedication and public service.

RECOGNIZING THE EUFAULA TRIBUNE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a community newspaper in my congressional district celebrating 75 years in business. The Eufaula Tribune recently marked its anniversary by announcing a

new publisher, Jack Smith, who was the associate publisher, editor, and son of long-time publisher and owner, Joel P. Smith, Sr.

For three quarters of a century, The Tribune has consistently educated, challenged, and supported the community of Eufaula with weekly, professional reporting. In an age of mass media and corporate take-over, this family-owned paper has remained a cornerstone of its community and a refreshing splash of local color. In fact, the Tribune has not only garnered a loyal readership, but has netted 14 awards from the Alabama Press Association.

Since 1958, Joel Smith has devoted his time, energy, and verbal craftsmanship to the Tribune. At the same time, he and his wife, Ann, a columnist and reporter for the Tribune, have raised three boys, balancing healthy community life with critical reporting. Joel's 46 years of endurance and commitment to his paper and his hometown are worth commending.

Jack began working for the Tribune at age 10 and is now an experienced and educated writer, editor, and publisher. Succeeding as publisher while raising his own young family in Eufaula, Jack promises continued excellence for the family-oriented community newspaper, saying "my goal is to become the best community newspaper in Alabama."

Mr. Speaker, I have a special appreciation for the contributions and the difficulties of running a newspaper in a small town. I, myself, owned and published a few different community newspapers in Alabama for over 30 years. It is a challenging and rewarding business and one of the noblest callings in public service.

The Eufaula Tribune has kept Eufaula, Alabama a vibrant, thinking, and informed community for 75 years. I salute this outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE 23RD ANNUAL DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to one of New York's oldest celebrations of Dominican culture, Manhattan's Dominican Day Parade.

The annual parade, which once ran through the heart of Washington Heights, has grown to become one of August's most anticipated celebrations of cultural and ethnic pride on New York's Sixth Avenue since the 1980s. The parade not only is a celebration of pride, but also pays homage to the declaration of the Nation's independence on February 27, 1844, when the Dominican Republic established constitutional autonomy. For Dominicans in the United States the commemoration, held in August, is a second Independence Day serving as a cultural holiday.

The Dominican Day Parade has paid tribute to the cultural heritage of the Dominican Republic and the vast contributions the Dominican community has made in the State of New York and in the Nation. Through the parade, the President and the Dominican Day Parade Committee have promoted unity as well as the advancement of Dominicans in New York City. Dominican youth are our hope for the future